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REPORT

OF THE

Committee on Elections

ON THE

CENSUS RETURNS.

The Committee on Elections, to whom was referred the subject of the Census, have had the subject under consideration and ask leave to submit the following Report:

Your committee have examined the returns as submitted with the Governor's Message, and find from information obtained from the clerks of the several counties returned and members who represent those Counties in both branches of the Legislature, that the returns are very imperfect: that in many counties, only partial returns have been received by the Executive, as required by law.

Your Committee find that Doniphan County has returned, from 4 townships, 1,111 registered votes and a population of 3,509, and from reliable information before the committee, the registers of that county now show a registered vote of over 1,800, which would make an additional population of about 3,000.

Atchison returned 963 registered votes and a population of 3,723, and now has on the register about 2,000 votes, which would make an additional population of 4,200.

Riley County is not returned, in which there is now about 650 votes, with a population of about 2,600.

Leavenworth County has returned a vote of 3,445 and a population of 12,122. The population at that time in the City of Leavenworth was nearly the amount returned from the whole county. From the most reliable information obtained from persons well acquainted and representing that county here, the county contains a population of 16,000, making an additional population of about 4,000.

From information from the Deputy Clerk of Lykins County, between 300 and 400 registered voters do not appear in the report, that were registered in that county, which would make an additional population of about 1,600.

Morris, Pottawattamie and Washington Counties only partial returns, and in some of the counties where there are 600 voters, with a population of 2,500, only 50 to 200 registered votes returned.

In the five counties above mentioned there is returned a population of 1,718, and a vote of 664, in the aggregate being less than one-third of the actual vote or population in said counties, which if added to the population now returned, would swell the population to the number of about 7,000. This calculation is based on the information of persons living in those counties who have examined the census returns and register. The census returns, as exhibited in the report of the Governor, show great neglect on the part of the assessors in many of the townships and in many of the most populous counties. Besides the five mentioned above, only three out of five or five out of eight of the townships have been returned to the Executive, showing conclusively that a very large population exists in those counties, of which your committee have not been able to collect any information as to the real number.

Your committee also find no returns from the Counties of Clay, Dickinson, McGee, Osage, Wilson and Dorn, and the smallest estimate that can be made is 150 votes to each county, making a total vote of 900, with a population of at least 3,400. This calculation is not based on the rapid increase of population which has been continually pouring into these fertile counties for the last eight months.

The returns, as reported by the Governor, show a partial and incorrect census as taken in the month of June, 1859, since which time the emigration into Kansas has been unprecedented. The whole amount of population as reported by the Governor at the regular session was 71,770, to which if we add the calculation as estimated in the foregoing counties partially returned, and from which we have no return, the population up to the 1st day of July, 1859, would amount to about 107,570, in which is not included a large number of the most populous counties from which there have been only a part of the townships returned to the Executive. Your committee are of the opinion that it will be very difficult to obtain any correct census of many of those counties upon the frontier of the Territory, where the officers do not either qualify at all and enter upon the discharge of their duties, or manifest such gross indifference and stupidity as not to make a return in any way to comply with the law, either in taking or returning the census. Many of the counties have not been organized and therefore have no officers, notwithstanding they have a large population, of which your committee have not been able to collect any correct data.

Your committee are of the opinion that the rapid increase of wealth and population in this Territory and the manifest desire of all classes of our prosperous and energetic citizens, demand that some legislation be had relative to the taking of the future census and other valuable statistics of this Territory.

Your committee have with some care and labor prepared a bill and tabular form, which they believe will meet the demands of the case at this time, and ask leave to submit the same with this report and recommend its passage.

P. P. ELDER, Ch'n.
F. M. CHRISTISON,
J. C. LAMBDIN.